

4 generating the local key from a programmable user key according to an authorization  
5 code provided by the content provider; and  
6 receiving the authorization code via a communication channel, the communication  
7 channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

1 4. (AMENDED) The method of Claim 3 further comprising receiving the user key  
2 from the content provider via the communication channel.

1 5. (AMENDED) The method of Claim 3 wherein the user key is provided by a  
2 master CA device having the authorization code.

1 6. (AMENDED) The method of Claim 3 wherein the user key is embedded in a  
2 medium embodying the content.

1 7. (CANCELLED)

1 8. (CANCELLED)

1 9. (AMENDED) A conditional access (CA) device comprising:  
2 a descrambler to descramble a content delivered by a content provider using a local key;  
3 a key generator coupled to the descrambler to generate the local key from a user key  
4 according to an authorization code provided by the content provider; and  
5 a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the authorization code  
6 via a communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable  
7 connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

1 10. (AMENDED) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the communication interface  
2 further receives the user key from the content provider via the communication channel.

1 11. (AMENDED) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is provided by a  
2 master CA device having the authorization code.

1 12. (AMENDED) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is embedded in a  
2 medium embodying the content.

1 13. (CANCELLED)

1 14. (CANCELLED)

1 15. (AMENDED) A computer program product comprising:  
2 a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein to provide  
3 copy protection for a scrambled content, the computer program product having:  
4 a first program code to descramble the content delivered by a content provider  
5 using a local key;  
6 a second program code to generate the local key from a programmable user key  
7 according to an authorization code provided by the content provider; and  
8 a third program code to receive the authorization code via a communication  
9 channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a  
10 telephone connection, and a network.

1 16. (AMENDED) The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising a  
2 fourth program code to receive the user key from the content provider via the communication  
3 channel.

1 17. (AMENDED) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key  
2 is provided by a master CA device having the authorization code.

1 18. (AMENDED) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key  
2 is embedded in a medium embodying the content.